

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A fluid detecting device comprising:
a main path through which a fluid runs;
one or a plurality of branch paths each having an opening end portion that is formed in the vicinity of an inner wall surface of the main path so as to point to an upstream or downstream side of said main path, and causing part of a fluid flowing in the vicinity of the inner wall surface of said main path to run therethrough via the opening end portions; and
a thermal flow sensor that is disposed in said branch path and detects a flow of the fluid running through said branch path.

2. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 1, wherein the opening end portions of said plurality of branch paths, which are pointed toward the upstream side of said main path, are arranged at regular intervals along a path cross section of said main path around an axis of said main path.

3. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 1, wherein the opening end portions of said plurality of branch paths, which are pointed toward the downstream side of said main path, are arranged at regular intervals along a path cross section of said main path around the axis of said main path.

4. (Currently amended) The fluid detecting device according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, wherein said branch paths are open at the other end sides toward a surrounding environment of said main path.

5. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 2, wherein:

the plurality of branch paths whose opening end portions are pointed toward the upstream side of said main path are connected to the other end portions to form one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in a portion where said plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form one path, and detects a total flow rate of fluids running through the branch paths.

6. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 3, wherein:

the plurality of branch paths whose opening end portions are pointed toward the downstream side of said main path are connected to the other end portions to form one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in a portion where said plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form one path, and detects the total flow rate of the fluids running through the branch paths.

7. (Currently amended) The fluid detecting device according to ~~either one of claims 5 and 6~~ claim 5, wherein an end portion of the portion where the plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form one path, is open toward the surrounding environment of said main path.

8. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an auxiliary thermal flow sensor that is disposed in a portion where said branch paths are not formed, and detects a state of said fluid.

9. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 8, wherein said auxiliary thermal flow sensor is disposed in a fluid-pooling portion that communicates with said branch paths.

10. (Original) A fluid detecting device comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

one or a plurality of branch paths each having an inflow-side opening end portion pointed toward an upstream side of said main path and an outflow-side opening end portion pointed toward a downstream side of said main path which are formed in the vicinity of an inner wall surface of the main path, and causing part of a fluid flowing in the vicinity of the inner wall surface of said main path to run therethrough via said

inflow-side and outflow-side opening end portions; and

a thermal flow sensor that is disposed in said branch path and detects a flow of the fluid running through said branch path.

11. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 10, wherein the inflow-side opening end portions and the respective outflow-side opening end portions in said plurality of branch paths are arranged at regular intervals along a path cross section of said main path around an axis of said main path.

12. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 10, wherein the inflow-side opening end portions and the respective outflow-side opening end portions in said plurality of branch paths are roughly aligned in a path direction of said main path.

13. (Currently amended) The fluid detecting device according to ~~either one of claims 11 and 12~~ claim 11, wherein:

said branch paths have a plurality of upstream-side branch paths provided with said respective inflow-side opening end portions, a plurality of downstream-side branch paths provided with said respective outflow-side opening end portions, and a communicating portion disposed between said plurality of upstream-side branch paths and said plurality of downstream-side branch paths to form one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in the communicating

portion that forms said one path, and detects a total flow rate of the fluids running through said branch paths.

14. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 13, wherein path resistance of each of said branch paths is greater than path resistance of said communicating portion.

15. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 10, further comprising an auxiliary thermal flow sensor that is disposed in a portion where said branch paths are not formed and detects a state of said fluid.

16. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 15, wherein said auxiliary thermal flow sensor is disposed in a fluid-pooling portion that communicates with said branch paths.

17. (new) The fluid detecting device according to claim 2, wherein said branch paths are open at the other end sides toward a surrounding environment of said main path.

18. (new) The fluid detecting device according to claim 3, wherein said branch paths are open at the other end sides toward a surrounding environment of said main path.

19. (new) The fluid detecting device according to claim 6, wherein an end portion of the portion where the plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form one path, is open toward the surrounding environment of said main path.

20. (new) The fluid detecting device according to claim 12, wherein:

said branch paths have a plurality of upstream-side branch paths provided with said respective inflow-side opening end portions, a plurality of downstream-side branch paths provided with said respective outflow-side opening end portions, and a communicating portion disposed between said plurality of upstream-side branch paths and said plurality of downstream-side branch paths to form one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in the communicating portion that forms said one path, and detects a total flow rate of the fluids running through said branch paths.

21. (new) The fluid detecting device according to claim 20, wherein path resistance of each of said branch paths is greater than path resistance of said communicating portion.